

resources needed for the challenges it expects to face in the months and years ahead.

For 27 hours over the course of 5 days—that is more than five hours each day—Melissa put her regular work on hold and came to the call center. In those 27 hours, Melissa took countless calls, answering questions and connecting people with her colleagues at FEMA who could get them immediate help.

In the Navy, when someone does a truly remarkable job, we say these words: “Bravo Zulu.” So, to Melissa and to all who worked and volunteered at FEMA headquarters, I would say a great big “Bravo Zulu.”

As I mentioned earlier, FEMA is made up of thousands of men and women who ask every day: How are you? How are you doing? How can we help? While Tito, his team, and others from FEMA were on the ground in Louisiana, Melissa felt compelled to do all she could do to support them.

More than a year ago, Secretary Johnson launched his Unity of Effort initiative to bring the Department of Homeland Security employees closer together in their shared mission. Last month, Melissa and Tito were reunited from a thousand miles away in their efforts to help the people of Louisiana.

Every month I come to the Senate floor and highlight the amazing dedication of two or three people, in some cases entire teams of men and women who are united in their shared goal of keeping Americans safe.

In closing, let me say that I don't think the results from this year's Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey are a fluke. I believe the improvement in morale that has been reported by the thousands of employees at the Department of Homeland Security represents the growing unity within the Department of Homeland Security, the youngest and third largest Cabinet Department in the Federal Government.

I, for one, look forward to next year's viewpoint survey, as well as those in the years to come, because I believe they will continue to put on display an ever more united and effective department. So to Tito, to the East II team, to Melissa and the volunteers at FEMA headquarters, as well as to everyone at FEMA, we say a great big thank you. Thank you for coming together, not only by asking “How are you doing?” but by going to work to make things better for all of us. Keep up the great work that you are doing, and God bless you.

I have been joined on the floor by the majority leader.

Before I yield the floor, let me say to another person who has joined us, my colleague from New Hampshire, who is the ranking member Democrat on the Appropriations Subcommittee for Homeland Security that she and the chairman, former Governor HOEVEN, Senator HOEVEN now, do a wonderful job that is important to Homeland Security. On behalf of Melissa and Tito

and all the hundreds of thousands of people who work with them in Homeland Security, thank you for being there for them.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

THE CONVENTION ON THE LAW APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN RIGHTS IN RESPECT OF SECURITIES HELD WITH AN INTERMEDIARY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following treaties on today's Executive Calendar en bloc: Nos. 9 and 10; I further ask unanimous consent that the treaties be considered as having passed through their various parliamentary stages up to and including the presentation of the resolutions of ratification; that any committee conditions, declarations, or reservations be agreed to as applicable; that any statements be printed in the RECORD; further, that each treaty be voted on en bloc but considered voted on individually; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table; that the President be notified of the Senate's action; and that following the disposition of the treaties, the Senate return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The treaties will be stated.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Treaty document No. 110-19, Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Treaty document No. 112-6, The Convention on the Law Applicable to Certain Rights in Respect of Securities Held with an Intermediary.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for a division vote on the resolutions of ratification en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A division vote has been requested.

On treaty document No. 110-19, Senators in favor of the resolution of ratification will rise and stand until counted.

Those opposed will rise and stand until counted.

On a division vote, two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative, the resolution of ratification is agreed to.

The resolution of ratification is as follows:

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

SECTION 1. SENATE ADVICE AND CONSENT SUBJECT TO AN UNDERSTANDING AND A DECLARATION.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the International Treaty on

Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on November 3, 2001, and signed by the United States of America on November 1, 2002 (the “Treaty”) (Treaty Doc. 110-19), subject to the understanding of section 2 and the declaration of section 3.

SEC. 2. UNDERSTANDING.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following understanding, which shall be included in the United States instrument of ratification: The United States of America understands that Article 12.3d shall not be construed in a manner that diminishes the availability or exercise of intellectual property rights under national laws.

SEC. 3. DECLARATION.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Treaty is not self-executing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On treaty document No. 112-6, Senators in favor of the resolution of ratification will rise and stand until counted.

Those opposed will rise and stand until counted.

On a division vote, two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative, the resolution of ratification is agreed to.

The resolution of ratification is as follows:

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

SECTION 1. SENATE ADVICE AND CONSENT SUBJECT TO A DECLARATION.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Convention on the Law Applicable to Certain Rights in Respect of Securities Held with an Intermediary, done at The Hague on July 5, 2006, and signed by the United States on that same day (the “Convention”) (Treaty Doc. 112-6), subject to the declaration of section 2.

SEC. 2. DECLARATION.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Convention is self-executing.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 4511

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 5 p.m., on Tuesday, November 15, the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4511 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; I further ask that there then be 30 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form, and that following the use or yielding back of time, the bill be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.